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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0132
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0535
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RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0616
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0504
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 1740
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000300

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [EUN](#) [EZ](#)
SUBJECT: CZECH RESPONSE: U.S. POSITION ON IRAN AS A SOURCE
OF GAS IN NABUCCO ISA

REF: SECSTATE 54469

Classified By: Political and Economic Counselor Charles
[1](#)O. Blaha. Reasons 1.4 b and d.

[1](#)1. (C) We delivered reftel demarche May 28 to MFA Energy Envoy Vaclav Bartuska and MFA North and East Europe Director Daniel Kostoval. Kostoval reported that since the Nabucco pipeline would not flow through the Czech Republic, the Czechs were not directly involved in negotiating the Nabucco Inter-State Agreement. Ambassador Bartuska said he had discussed this issue with U.S. officials during his recent visit to Washington. He stressed that if there is to be a "real problem" between the U.S. and EU concerning energy, it most likely will be about Iran. Bartuska added that "Europe cannot ignore the second largest gas reserves in the world, especially when the owner of the largest gas reserve (i.e. Russia) is trying to blackmail her." Bartuska said he realized that this position was unpopular in Washington, but insisted that this was "reality."

[1](#)2. (SBU) We also delivered reftel demarche June 1 to Ministry of European Affairs staffers Jan Kral and Jiri Horak. While noting that the Czechs were not directly involved in the negotiations, they promised to discuss our views internally. Thompson-Jones